



OUTCOMES
CONSULTING



Shelter Medicine Program
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2020-2022 Data Trends, A National Perspective

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MORE DATA THAN EVER BEFORE

Best Friends has the most comprehensive dataset for sheltered dogs and cats in the United States.

3,943

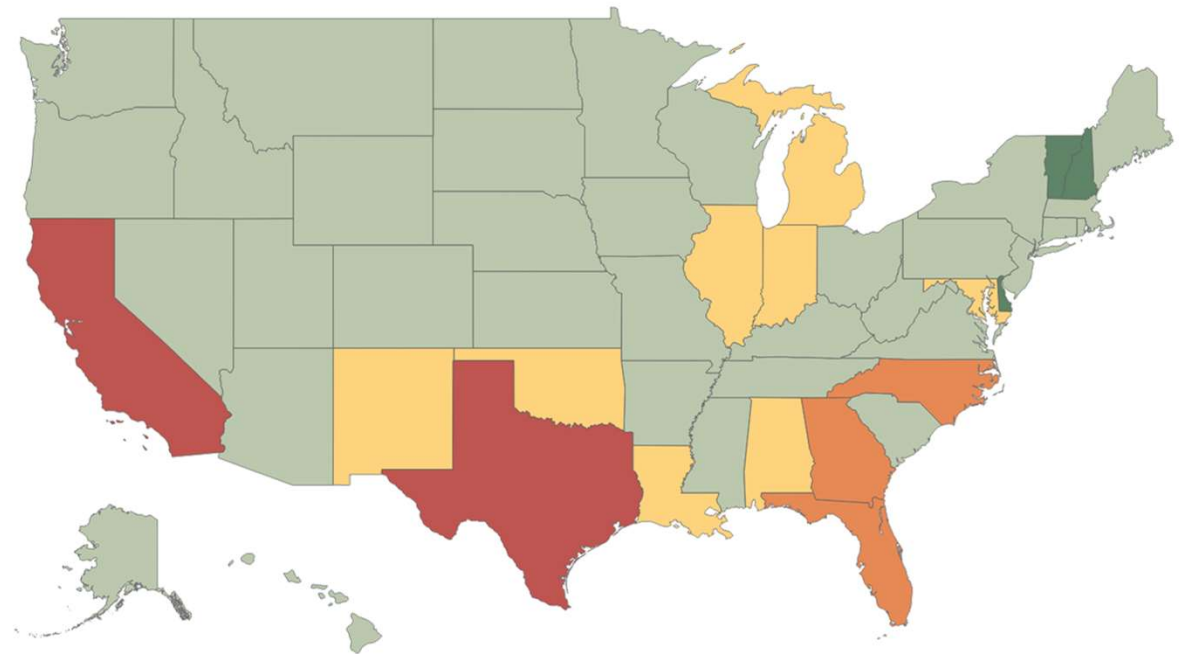
shelters across the United States

85%

of known shelters are included in the 2022 dataset

95%

of all animal data is from these shelters



Over 31k 15.5k – 31k 6.8k – 15.5k <6.8k No-Kill





**WHILE THE
SHELTER
CRISIS
IS SERIOUS,
WE'RE
OPTIMISTIC**



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2022 NATIONAL DATASET



national save rate



of U.S. shelters are no-kill



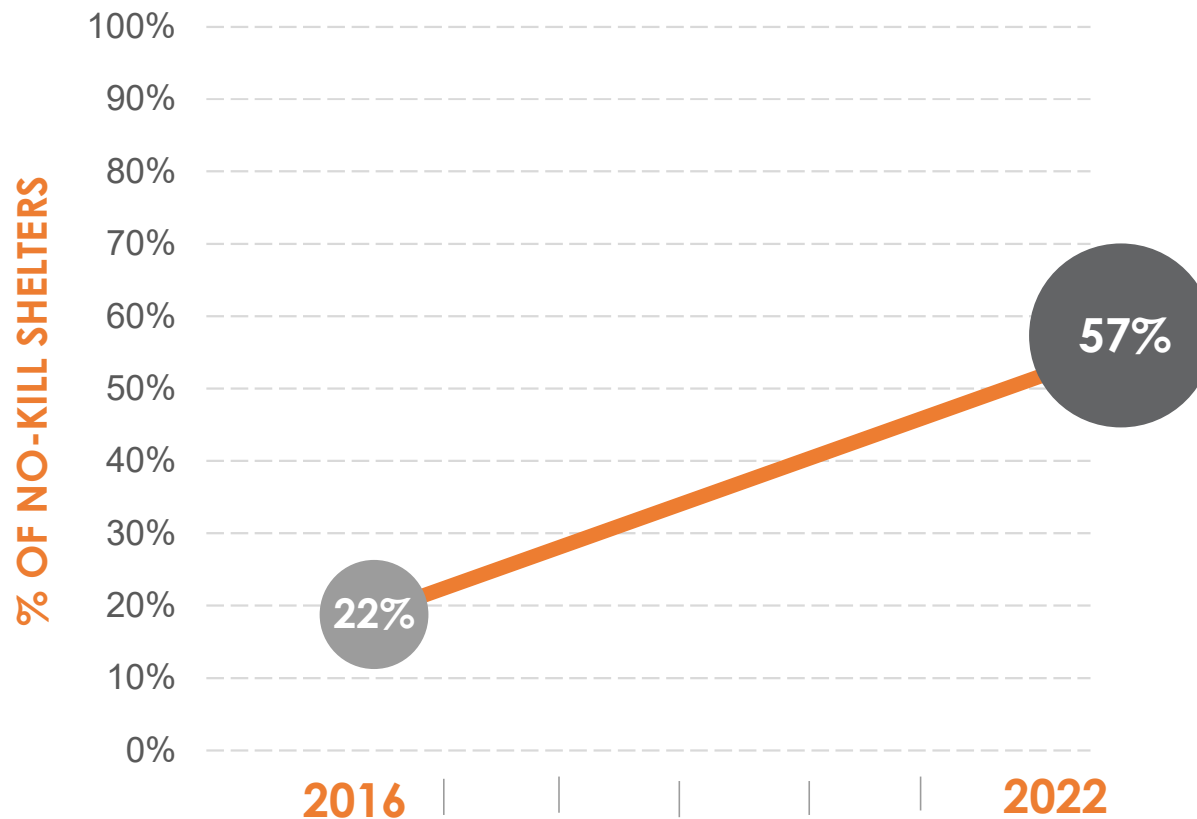
reduction in the number
of pets killed since 2016



of U.S. counties are no-kill



THE NUMBER OF NO-KILL SHELTERS IS AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH



**93% OF SHELTERS THAT WERE NO KILL IN 2021
REMAINED NO KILL IN 2022**

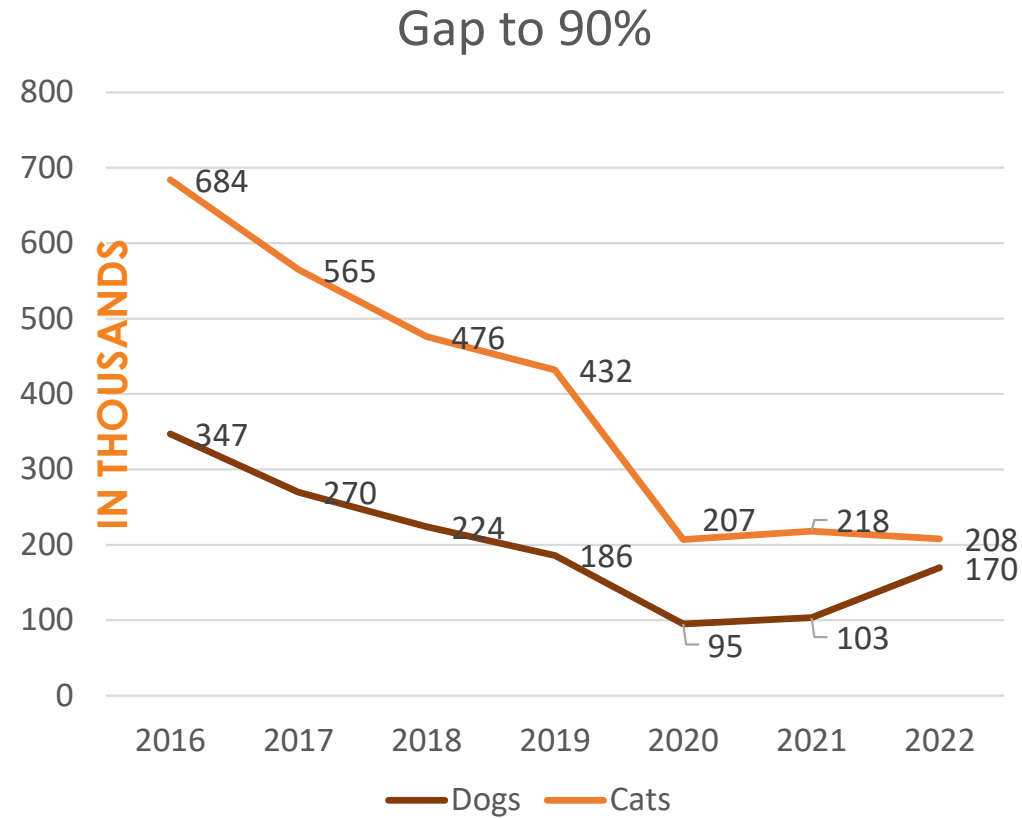
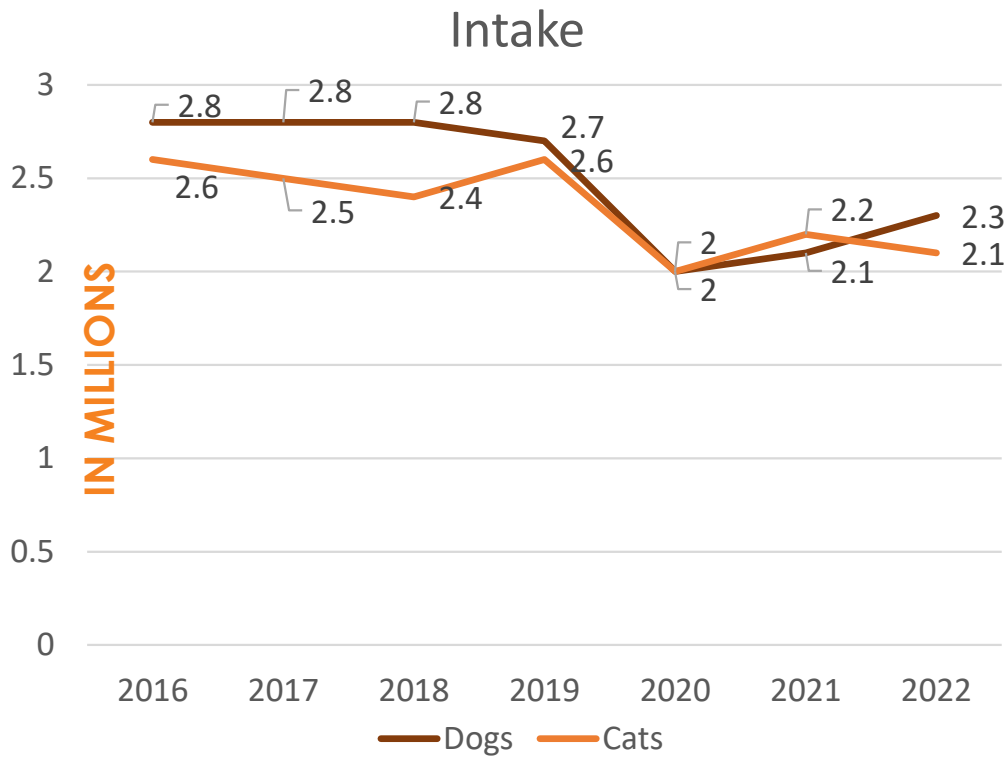




**YET THE SITUATION IS URGENT
FOR HOMELESS PETS**

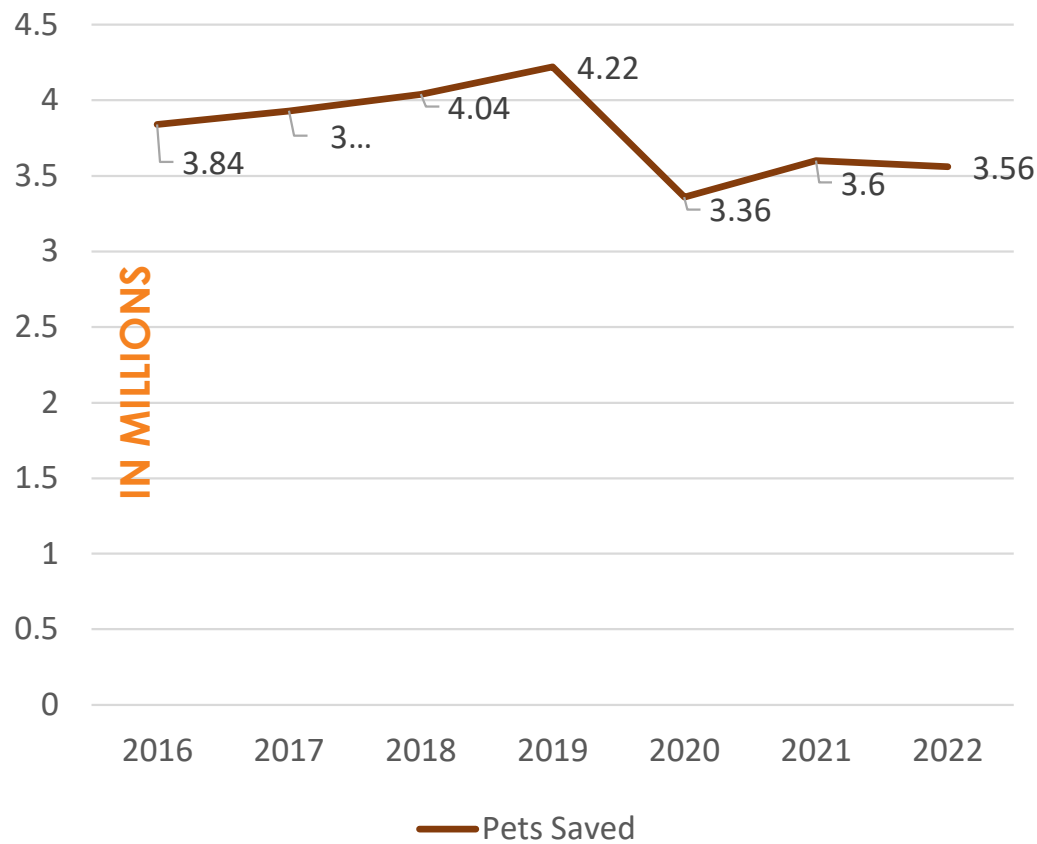


DOGS NOW MAKE UP 45% OF THE LIFESAVING GAP

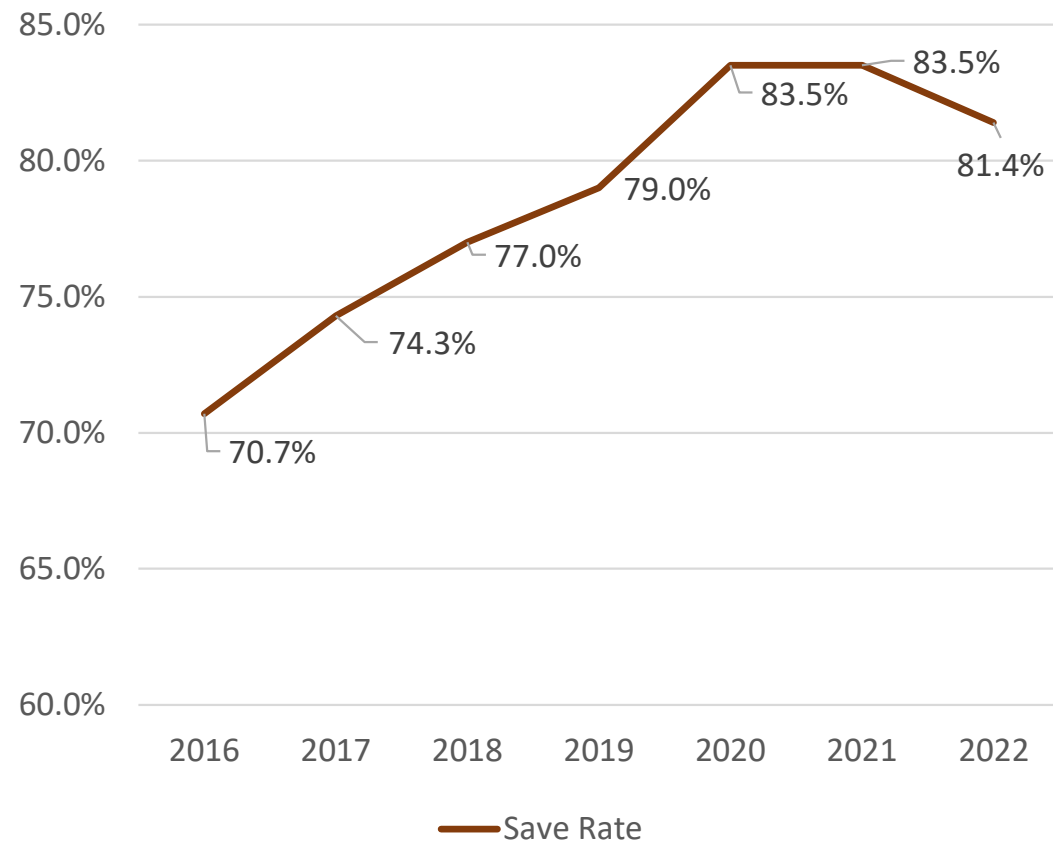


IN 2022, NATIONAL SAVE RATE DROPPED FOR THE FIRST TIME. # OF SAVED HAS NOT REBOUNDED TO 2019 LEVELS

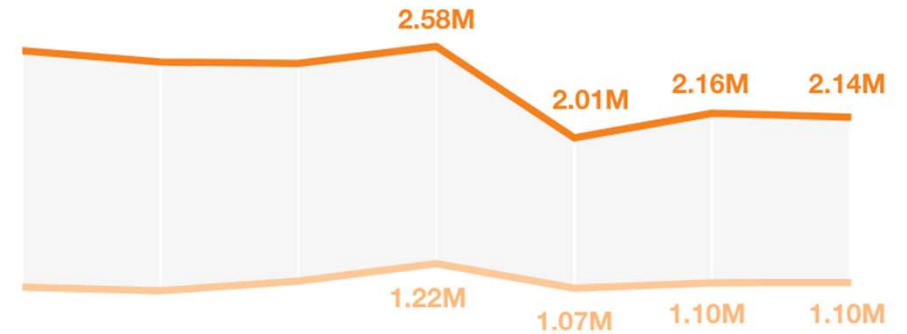
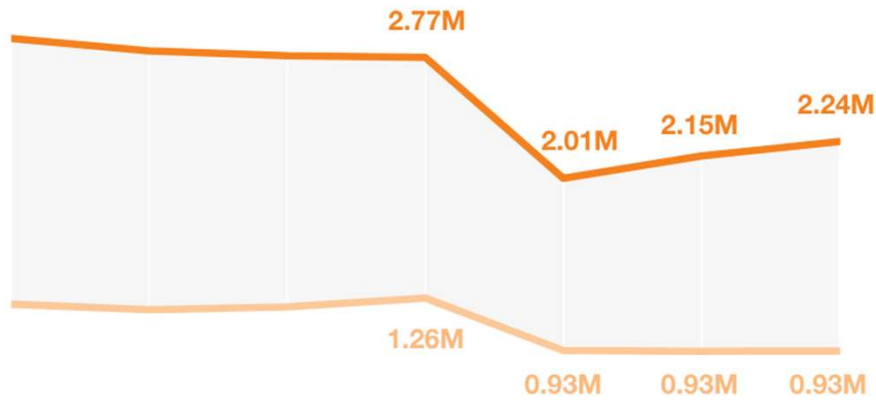
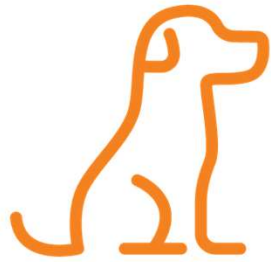
Animals Saved



National Save Rate



SHELTER ADOPTIONS HAVE STALLED



2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022

■ Dog adoptions ■ Dog intake

■ Cat adoptions ■ Cat intake



WHAT'S DRIVING THE INCREASE IN INTAKE?

	Stray as % of Total Intake	Owner Relinquished % of Total Intake	Stray as % of Cat Intake	Owner Relinquished % of Cat Intake	Stray as % of Dog Intake	Owner Relinquished % of Dog Intake
2022	54.3%	23.9%	54.8%	25.2%	53.8%	22.7%
2021	52.0%	24.4%	53.8%	25.2%	50.0%	23.7%





Shelter Data

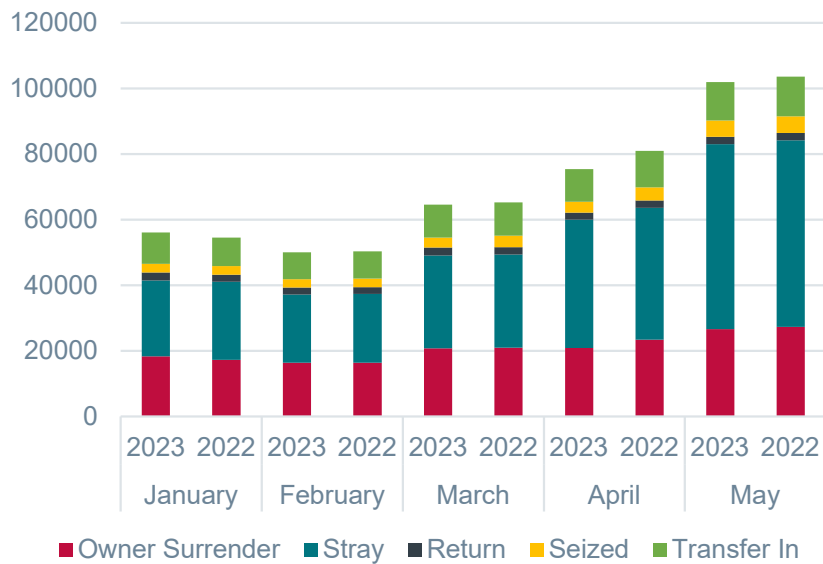
2018 to 2023



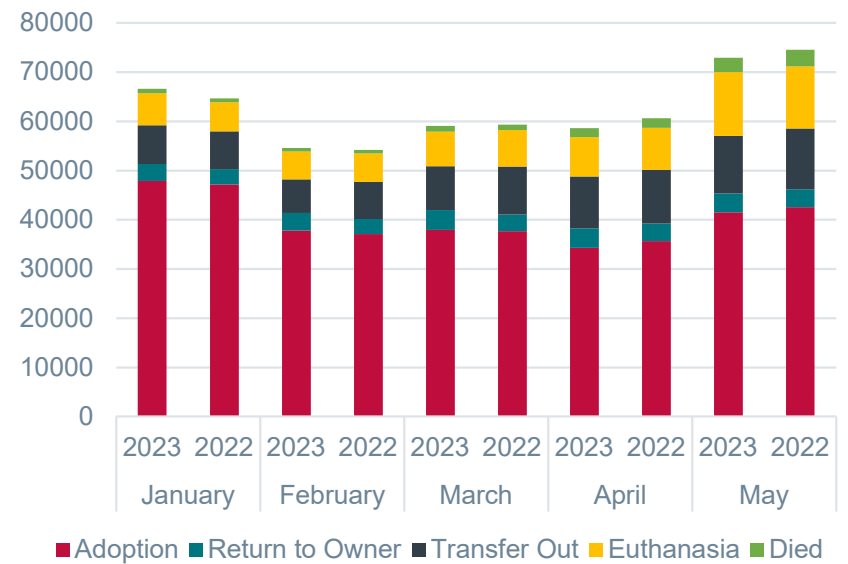


Intake/Outcome

Cat - Intakes

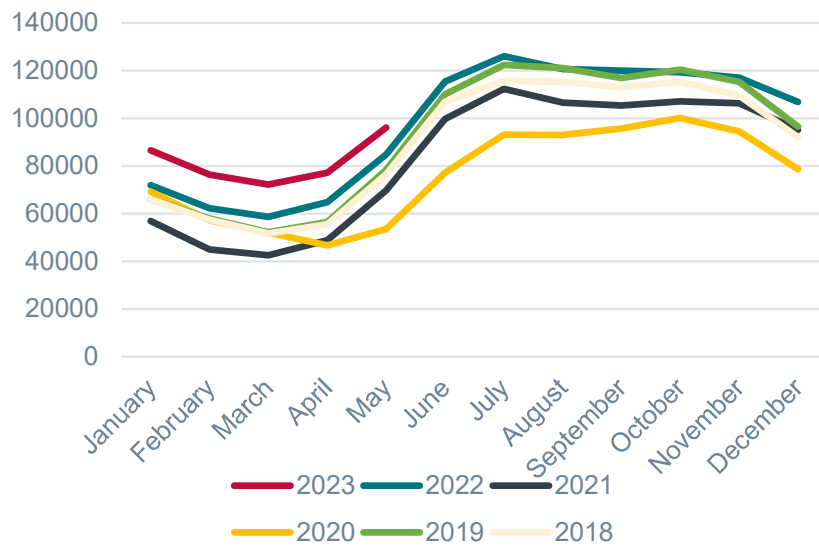


Cat - Outcomes

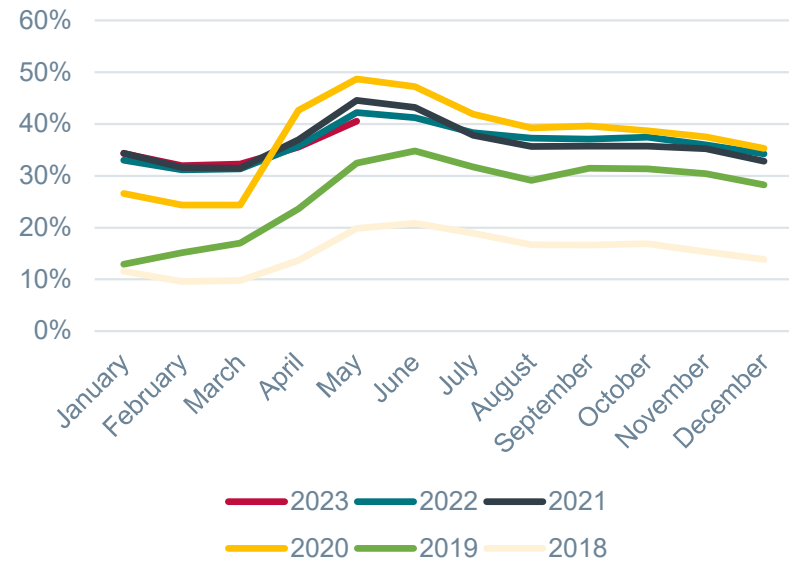


Shelter Population

Cat - Total Population



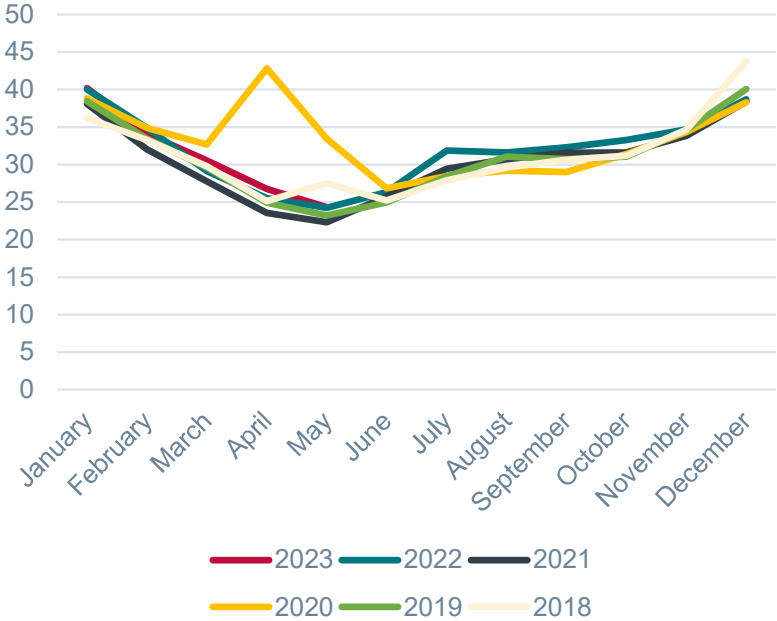
Cat - % of Population in Foster



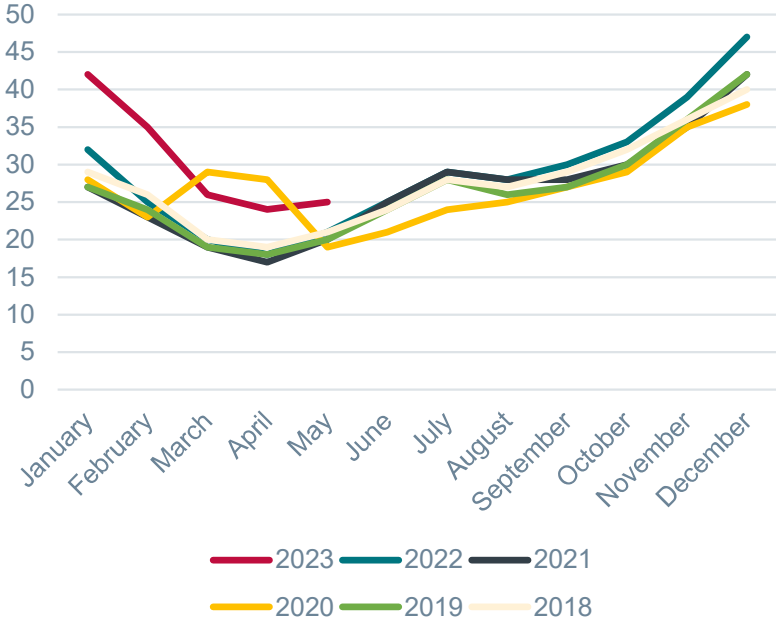
Length of Stay/Days in Care



Cat - Length of Stay



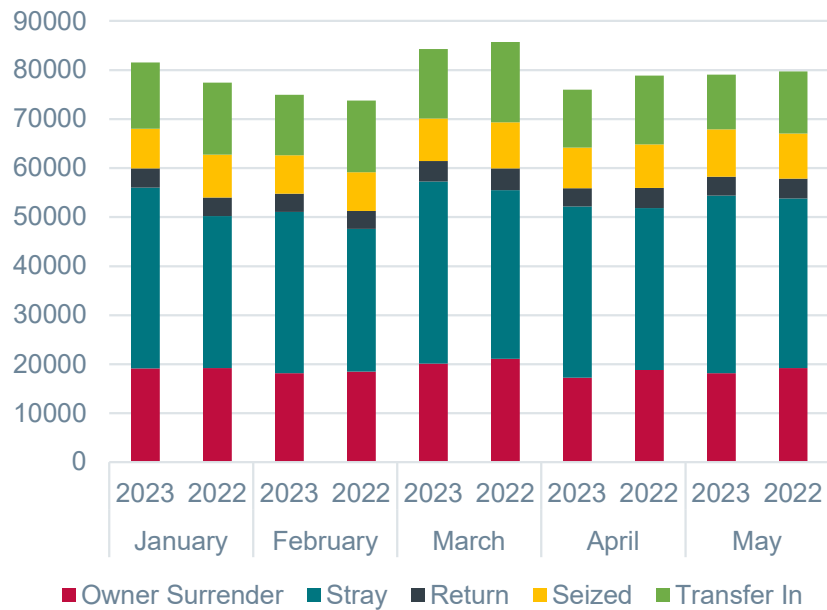
Cat - Days in Care



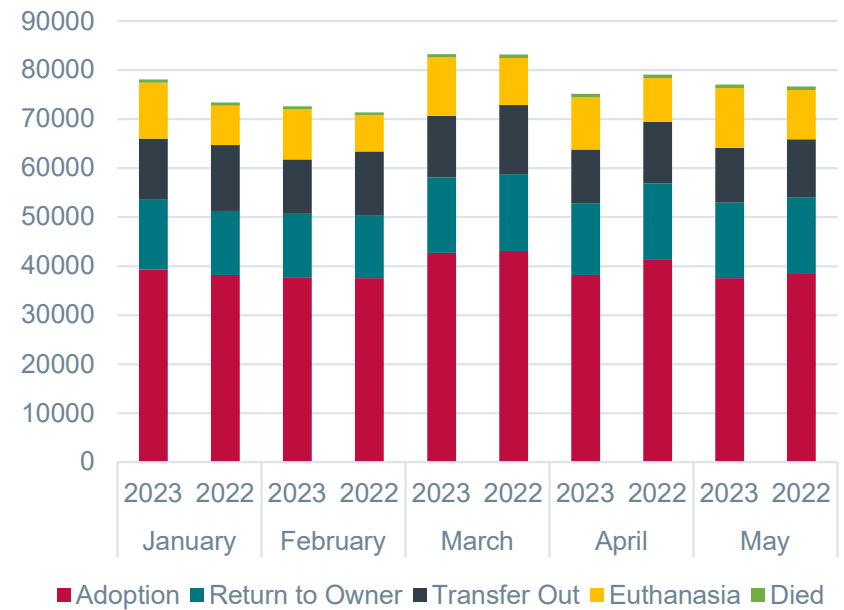


Intake/Outcome

Dog - Intakes

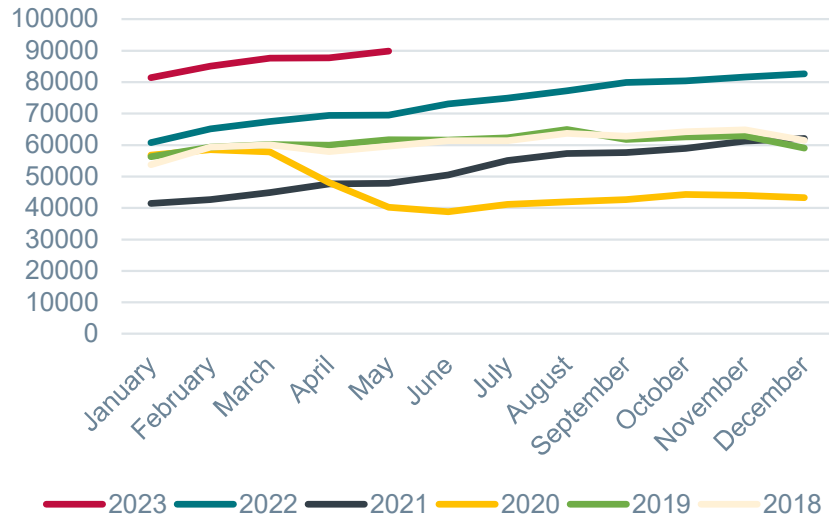


Dog - Outcome

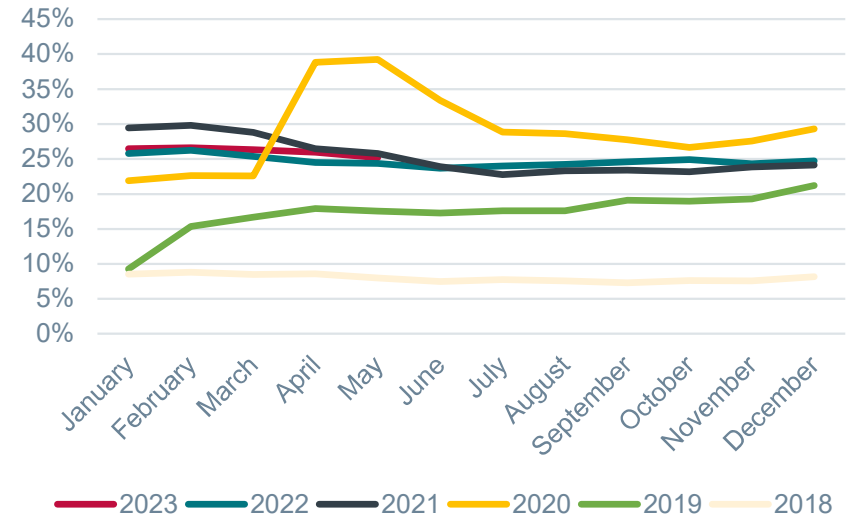


Shelter Population

Dog - Total Population

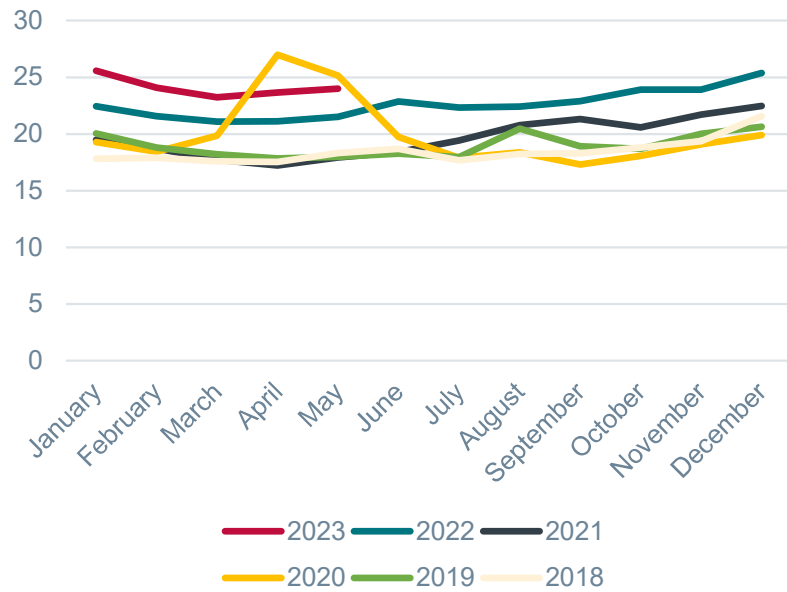


Dog - % of Population in Foster

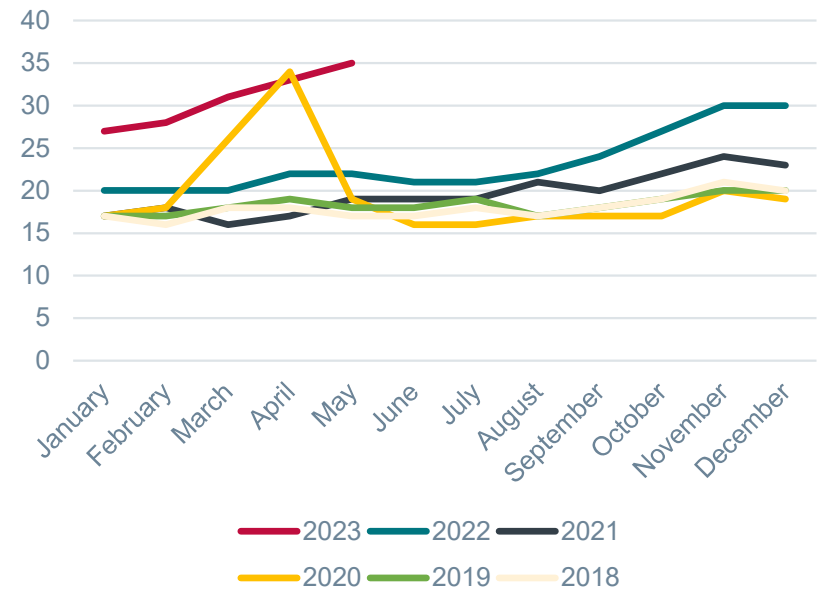


Length of Stay/Days in Care

Dog - Length of Stay



Dog - Days in Care





(SOME OF) THE CHALLENGES

- Daily population in shelters is at a **6-year high**
- **Adoptions not keeping up** with the increases in intake
- **Length of stay** and days in care for dogs continues to grow
- Many shelters are still strained by **staffing and volunteer shortages.**
- The **national veterinary shortage** limited surgery capacity and is delaying animal flow-through
- Some shelters are holding onto Covid-era policies such as appointment-based adoptions that are **no longer keeping up with the need.**



network.bestfriends.org

